

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the arguments presented in the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks presented below.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomkow WIPO Publication WO 01/10090. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 recites the step of providing for a transmission of a reply to the sender through the server of the message by the recipient. This is not what is disclosed by Tomkow at page 10, lines 11-15. Tomkow discloses sending a read receipt by a recipients MUA. A receipt is not a reply. As set forth on in paragraph 315 of the pending application, Applicant's claim 1 provides for transmission of a reply, not a receipt, to the sender through the server. This provides a way to proof transmission, receipt and content of the reply. The receipt disclosed in Tomkow is merely a system generated receipt sent to the server by the email system of the recipient. It does not provide for proof of transmission or content of a reply generated by a recipient. Moreover, there is no disclosure taught or even suggested by the disclosure of Tomkow of the method claimed by Applicant's claim 1 providing for transmission of a reply to the sender through the server of the message by the recipient. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious by the disclosure of Tomkow, and thus requests that the rejection be withdrawn and claim 1, and its dependent claims, be allowed.

Independent claims 8 and 11 were similarly rejected. However, Tomkow does not disclose or even suggest transmitting to the sender through the server any reply by the recipient to the sender, as claimed in claim 8. Nor does Tomkow provide for a reply from the recipient or transmit the reply through the server to the true address of the sender, as claimed in claim 11. As stated above, Tomkow merely discloses transmitting a receipt containing information generated by a recipient's email system; Tomkow does not teach or even suggest a method of providing for a reply or transmitting a reply from a recipient of a message. According, Applicant submits that claims 8 and 11, and the claims dependent therefrom, are novel and not obvious in view of any of the cited art of record, and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Similarly, claim 14 was rejected as anticipated in view Tomkow. Again, there is no disclosure or suggestion to be found within Tomkow of providing a reply to a message and sending the reply to the server as is claimed in claim 14. A receipt as disclosed in Tomkow is a message generated by a recipients email system to indicate the delivery status of the message, and contains no content generated by recipient. A reply, on the other hand, does contain content generated by a recipient, and is not automatically composed by the recipient's email system, as is the receipt disclosed by Tomkow. According, Applicant's request that the rejection be withdrawn and that claim 14 and its dependent claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has carefully reviewed the arguments presented in the Office Action and respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the above amendments and arguments, or any suggestions for further amending the claims to obtain allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney, John Fitzgerald, at 310-242-2667.

The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fees in this matter to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Date: September 24, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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